Sustainable INL News

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

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Sustainable Fleet at INL

id you know that INL operates one of the largest fleet and transportation organizations within DOE? In recent years we have made great progress toward a more sustainable fleet, and more is planned.

Facts and Figures

Within the INL fleet we have 103 busses, 78 pieces of heavy equipment, 25 light-duty trucks, and 75 heavy-duty trucks that all run on biodiesel (B20). There are 273 light duty vehicles and 2 heavy trucks that run on Ethanol (E-85). We also have heavy equipment including bulldozers, backhoes, cranes, road graders, dump trucks, tractors, manlifts, and even a compactor for our landfill.

We have E-85 fuel islands at IRC, MFC, CFA, ATR Complex, NRF, and SMC. Much of our fueling processes have been streamlined and automated. Fuel keys and gas cards, along with the GasBoy technology that

automatically identifies your INL vehicle, its mileage, fuel pumped, and other key data points, provide us with more accurate information to manage the fleet to lower overall fuel consumption and increase the use of alternative fuels.

Transportation Fuel Reductions

For the past few years, fuel-use reductions have been a major INL focus. BEA is contractually obligated to reduce petroleum fuel use by 20% while increasing use of alternative fuels by 100%, both by 2015 as compared to a 2005 baseline. At the end of FY-10, petroleum use was down 27% and alternative fuel use was up 56%, both exceeding our target for FY-10. This is largely due to your efforts to use alternative fuel in our flex-fuel vehicles. In addition, the entire bus fleet runs on biodiesel, which makes a huge contribution to both fuel use goals.

Ongoing Activities

We are constantly working to improve the efficiency of our fleet. In the past few years, 42 new fuel efficient buses have replaced aging buses in our fleet. That's nearly half of the 103 bus fleet. We have also streamlined bus routes and gone to the modern Park & Ride system. The mileage and fuel savings are substantial.

Current Activities

In FY-11 we are primarily capitalizing on our recent successes by developing additional Park & Ride locations and continue to upgrade our old buses with new higher efficiency leased buses as resources permit.

Future Activities

We are planning a test to increase the percentage of biodiesel from B20 to B50 in a select group of buses. We are also seeking to partner with the Idaho Department of Transportation and others to improve bus-to-bus and

bus-to-infrastructure communications, and to participate with automated data gathering to better define and implement fuel efficient driving practices.

Thank you for helping INL to be a more sustainable laboratory. For further information about our fleet, contact Scott Wold (Scott.Wold@inl.gov) or visit the INL online Bus Operations web page.

Sustainable INL Program

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